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ALCHEMY AND NUMISMATICS.

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In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the belief in the possibility of converting lead into gold and silver was well-nigh universal, and the pursuit of alchemy was followed by persons in every station of life; physicians vainly hoping to discover the Elixir of Life, merchants and tradesmen seeking a short road to riches, peasants and noblemen, beggars and princes with whom avarice was a common motive, each and all courted the fascinating folly. The belief was not confined to the ignorant and unlearned, but was held by the men of science, the theologians, the warriors, and the statesmen of that period. Some who professed to have accomplished the "great work," as the transmutation was called, were undoubtedly self-deceived, owing to the occurrence of certain phenomena which modern chemists have no difficulty in explaining, but which to the experimenters of the Middle Ages seemed conclusive proofs of the wonderful transformation. On the other hand there were many unprincipled impostors who gained a precarious livelihood by pretending to a knowledge of the hermetic art, and who practiced their profession at the bidding and costs of wealthy and credulous devotees of Mammon. These hired laborers in alchemy, anxious to maintain their reputation and to please their patrons, fostered this belief by many tricks and clever impostures. The learned and crafty Dr. John Dee who enjoyed the patronage of both Rudolph II, the Emperor of Germany, and of Queen Elizabeth of England, when about to seek favors from the latter, sent her a small disc of gold which he claimed to have made by hermetic art from a copper warming-pan; and shortly afterwards Dee forwarded to the Queen, as an unimpeachable witness, the warming-pan itself, having a hole in the copper bottom of the exact size of the piece of gold.

Leonhard Thurneysser, a noted German physician and alchemist, on the 20th of November, 1586, in Rome, performed a miracle with a common iron nail; the nail was dipped into the melted philosopher's stone, and the iron so far as immersed was transmuted into gold. All of which was solemnly testified to by a Cardinal of the Church; besides, was not the nail itself, half iron and half gold, a tangible witness convincing to the most skeptical?

Believers in the transmutation of metals had however far more satisfactory and authoritative evidences than these questionable specimens, to which they could point with assurance; these were the medals and coins of silver and of gold, duly stamped with the records of the transmutation, commemorating the power of the adept and honoring his noble patron. The number of these hermetic rarities in numismatics is surprisingly large; to catalogue them all would be no easy task; we describe briefly those which have come under our observation and to which we can give original references.

Among the earliest of the coins, whose undisputed existence was regarded as visible proof of hermetic labors, were the so-called *Rose nobles* made from gold artificially prepared by Raymund Lully. This celebrated alchemist (1235-1315) was invited by Edward II, King of England, about the year 1312, to visit his realm; on his arrival he was furnished with apartments in the Tower of London, where he transmuted base metals into gold; this was afterwards coined at the mint into six millions of nobles, each worth more than three pounds sterling. These Rose, or Raymund nobles as they were also called, were well known to the antiquarians of the sixteenth century, and were reputed to be of finer gold than any other gold coin of that day. The Rose noble had on one side the King's image in a ship, and on the reverse: "JESUS AUTEM TRANSIENS PER MEDIUM EORUM IBAT." These coins are said to have been worn as amulets to preserve from danger in battle, and to have been used as *touch pieces* in connection with the gift of healing by royal touch. (Pettigrew, *Superstition in Medicine and Surgery*. London, 1844, p. 129.)

Lully himself, in his "Last Testament," declares that while in London he converted twenty-two tons' weight of quicksilver, lead and tin, into gold. This relation is vouched for by Cremer, Abbot of Westminster (Maier's *Tripus Aureus*. Francofurti, 1618, p. 183), and the Raymund nobles are described by William Camden, the English antiquary (*Britannia, sive regnorum Angliæ descriptio*, 1586), and by John Selden (*Mare Clausum*, 1635). Robert Constantine in his *History of Medicine* (1545) states that he found public documents confirming the report that Lully made gold in the Tower by order of the King, and Dr. Edmund Dickenson relates that the workmen who removed the cloister which Lully occupied at Westminster found some of the powder, by which they enriched themselves. Historians who do not believe in transmutation, point out chronological discrepancies which throw doubts on the pretensions of Raymund Lully.

Numismatists describe several coins said to have been struck from hermetic gold by Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden. Buddeus relates that a merchant of Lubeck approached the King, who was traveling in Pomerania, and presented him with a mass of gold weighing one hundred pounds, prepared by himself through hermetic art. Gustavus Adolphus caused ducats to be struck from this mass, bearing his likeness on one side and the royal arms, with the characters for mercury ♄, and sulphur ⚡ on the other. These were of the date of 1634; double ducats coined by Gustavus, bearing the same alchemical symbols, and still a third coin dated 1622, are described by authorities. Figures of these are given in J. F. Buddeus' *Historisch- und politische Untersuchung von der Alchemie*: Nürnberg, 1733, p. 78 (in Friedrich Roth-Scholtz' *Deutsches Theatrum Chemicum*. Nürnberg, 1728, Vol. I). The Lubeck merchant who made so generous a gift to the King concealed his identity through life; at his

death 1,700,000 crowns were found in his house. (Borrichius, *De ortu et progressu Chemiae*. Hafniae, 1668.)

Christian IV, King of Denmark, had in his employ an alchemist named Caspar Harbach, and from him received a quantity of gold manufactured by art; this the King coined into ducats bearing the inscription: "VIDE MIRA DOMI (NI)," and the date 1647. (Kopp's *Geschichte der Chemie*, II, 171.)

In the same year an adept named J. P. Hofmann performed a transmutation in the presence of the Emperor Ferdinand III in Nuremberg. From this hermetic gold the Emperor caused a medal of rare beauty to be struck. It is figured in the work of an anonymous author entitled: "*Nützliche Versuche und Bermerkungen aus dem Reiche der Natur*," and published by Georg Bauer in Nuremberg in 1760. This exceedingly rare coin bears on the obverse two shields in one of which are eight fleurs-de-lis, and in the other a crowned lion highly conventionalized. In an outer circle occur the words: "LILIA CUM NIVEO COPULANTUR FULVA LEONE," and in an inner circle: "SIC LEO MANSUESCET, SIC LILIA FULVA VIRESCENT. 1647." On the reverse are seven circles, one containing a figure of Mars ♂ (iron), and surrounding this are six smaller circles containing the alchemical symbols for gold ☉, silver ♂, mercury ☿, copper ♀, tin ♁, and lead ♁. There are also several inscriptions, the chief indicating that the gold was made by "JOANNES PETRUS HOFMANN, VASALLUS NORIMBERGENSIS."

The Thirty Years' war was brought to a happy conclusion by the Emperor Ferdinand III at the treaty of Westphalia, on October 24, 1648. In January of the same year the Emperor found time in spite of his cares of State to experiment with the fascinating art of Hermes. A certain Richthausen, who claimed to have received the powder of projection from an adept now dead, performed a transmutation in the presence of the Emperor and of the Count of Rutz, director of mines. All the precautions which experience with impostors suggested were observed, and with one grain of the powder furnished by Richthausen, two and a half pounds of mercury were changed into gold. To commemorate this event the Emperor had a medal struck of the value of 300 ducats, appropriately inscribed. The obverse contained a full-length representation of Apollo with rays proceeding from his head; in one hand he held the lyra and in the other the caduceus; his feet were covered with winged sandals, thus personifying the transmutation of mercury into gold. Above the figure were the words (translated): "THE DIVINE METAMORPHOSIS," and beneath: "EXHIBITED AT PRAGUE, XV JAN. MDCXLVIII, IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS CAESAREAN MAJESTY FERDINAND THE THIRD." On the reverse was this inscription (in Latin) without any ornamentation: "LIKE AS RARE MEN HAVE THIS ART SO COMETH IT VERY RARELY TO LIGHT. PRAISE BE TO GOD FOREVER, WHO DOTH COMMUNICATE A PART OF HIS INFINITE POWER TO US HIS MOST ABJECT CREATURES."

This medal was still to be seen at the treasury in Vienna in 1797: it has been figured in several works, among which may be named J. J. Becher's *Oedipus Chemicus* (Amstelodami, 1664), Zwelffer's *Mantissa Spagirica* (1652), and W. Cooper's *Philosophicall Epitaph* (London, 1673).

Three years after this successful experiment the Emperor made another projection at Prague, operating on lead with some of the powder received from Richthausen. With the gold thus obtained Ferdinand made a second medal bearing the inscription: "AUREA PROGENIES PLUMBO PROGNATA PARENTE." This medal was seen by the traveler Keyssler in the last century, at the imperial

castle of Ambras in the Tyrol. Richthausen, who had furnished the Emperor with the means for these transmutations, was ennobled, being made Lord of Chaos (Schmieder's *Geschichte der Alchemie*, p. 397).

The accomplished Richthausen, now Lord of Chaos, gave further proof of his skill (in legerdemain or in chemistry?) in the year 1658. The Elector John Philipp of Mainz, a warm patron of alchemists, having received some of the powder of projection from Richthausen, and taking extraordinary precautions to prevent fraud, himself converted four ounces of mercury into gold. The metal was superfine and additional silver had to be added to reduce it to the usual quality. Pieces of this gold were in the possession of Professor G. W. Wedel of the University of Jena; and Mainzer ducats were also coined from a portion. But of these ducats we have no particulars. (Moncony's *Voyages*, II, 379.)

An Augustinian monk named Wenzel Seyler, a native of Bohemia, visited Vienna in 1675, and securing an interview with the reigning Emperor, Leopold I, son of Ferdinand III, accomplished in his presence a successful projection. He converted a copper vessel which had been brought to him into gold. He also changed tin into gold, and from the precious metal the Emperor caused ducats to be struck, stamped on one side only with the year, 1675, and with the couplet:

"AUS WENZEL SEYLER'S PULVERS MACHT
BIN ICH VON ZINN ZU GOLD GEMACHT."

which may be paraphrased thus:

"By Wenzel Seyler's aid, King Leopold
Transmuted me from tin to gold."

(Gottfr. Heinr. Burghard's *Destillirkunst*. Brieg, 1748.)

Wenzel Seyler was rewarded by being ennobled, with the cognomen Von Reinburg, but resorting to deceitful practices he was sent back to his cloister without however receiving punishment. Two years later this crafty monk succeeded in again persuading the Emperor of his power, and a large and elegantly ornamented medallion, still preserved in the Imperial Cabinet of coins in Vienna, commemorates the event. This medallion is of oval form, measures 40 by 37 centimeters, and has a weight equal to 2,055 Austrian ducats. On the obverse is engraved a portrait of Leopold I, surrounded by no less than forty-one portraits of his predecessors on the German throne. On the reverse is a long inscription in Latin, setting forth the virtues of the Emperor and the power of Johann Wenzel von Reinburg, in the year 1677. This medallion is figured in Herrgott's *Monumenta Augustae Domus Austriacae* (1760), and in Prof. A. Bauer's *Chemie und Alchymie in Oesterreich*. (Wien, 1883.)

Baron Krohnemann, one of the boldest impostors of the seventeenth century, played the part of an adept at the court of the Margrave George William of Baireuth, with varying success from 1677 to 1686. He pretended to be able to "fix" quicksilver, that is to convert it into a solid and to change its color to yellow, in short to transmute mercury into gold. Living at the expense of the Margrave and consuming great sums of money in fruitless experiments, he sought to retrieve his waning reputation by a bold stroke; in the presence of the Prince he heated mercury with salt, vinegar and verdigris in an iron dish, and at the end of the operation gold remained. Probably the

trickster mingled gold in the form of powder with the verdigris. Silver was made in like manner, and from this a medal was struck, inscribed with symbolical figures and dedicated to the Margravine on her birthday. Krohnemann had rightly reckoned on the effect of his legerdemain, and the Prince gave him the title of Baron, together with many favors. He continued to pursue his crafty ways, duping many persons in authority, fleecing General Kaspar von Lilien to the extent of 10,000 gulden, and living in extravagant style on his ill-gotten gains. At different times during the ten years in which he flourished, seven other coins and medals were struck to memorialize the operations conducted by Krohnemann, or to impose upon his patrons. To give in detail the inscriptions and hermetic symbols of each of these specimens would be tedious in the extreme; the curious can find neat figures of them in Fikenscher's *Geschichte von Baron von Krohnemann*. (Nürnberg, 1800.) Krohnemann's end was as tragic as his life was vicious; he was detected in fraud and hung on the gallows by order of the Margrave.

Buddeus, in the work already quoted, figures a coin bearing the effigy of Frederick, Duke of Saxony, on the obverse, and on the reverse certain symbolical representations, together with the signs for sulphur Δ , salt \ominus , and mercury γ , the three principles of which all substances were considered to be made; in addition to this is the date 1687. Further particulars of this presumably alchemical coin are wanting.

The crafty alchemists who operated with the hermetic powder, or the so-called philosopher's stone, almost always pretended to have received the precious material from some stranger, and but few professed to be able to prepare a larger supply of the wonder-working substance. The following anecdote is but one of many of similar purport: In October, 1704, George Stolle, a goldsmith of Leipzig, was visited by a stranger, who conversed on divers subjects for a short time and then inquired if Stolle knew how to make gold. The goldsmith replied very innocently that he "knew only how to work with that metal when already made." The stranger further inquired if he believed in the possibility of transmutation, to which Stolle answered that he "did believe in the art of Hermes, but had never met any person able to give him ocular proofs." Thereupon the visitor exhibited an ingot of a yellow metal which the goldsmith tested with the touch-stone and by the crucible, and ascertained it to be 22 carat gold. The visitor assured him it was artificial gold and withdrew. The next day he returned and asked to have the bar of gold cut into seven round pieces; this Stolle did, and after the stranger had stamped them he gave him two of the pieces as a souvenir. The pieces were inscribed with the words: "O TU ALPHA ET OMEGA LAPIS PHILOSOPHORUM" the alchemical symbols for lead, gold, silver, salt, sulphur, and mercury occur in the portion omitted.* The news of this singular event made a great stir in Leipzig; Augustus, King of Poland, received one of the gold pieces and the other was deposited in the collection of medals at Leipzig. The unknown adept who was so generous with the precious metal, was popularly supposed to be a certain mysterious personage who called himself Lascaris, and to whom for many years were attributed similar proofs of hermetic power, exhibited always incognito. (*Edelgeborne Jungfrau Alchymia*. Tübingen, 1730.)

* These various symbols have been shown above. are given in an article on "The Seven Sacred Metals." Reasons for the attribution of many of these symbols *Journal*, xi. p. 9.—ED.

In 1705 Charles XII of Sweden condemned to death General Paykull, convicted of treason, having been captured while bearing arms against his own country. The General, as a forlorn hope, offered, if permitted to live, to manufacture annually one million crowns of gold without any expense to the King or to the Kingdom. He also offered to teach his art to any persons whom the King should select, pretending to have learned the secret from a Polish officer named Lubinski, who in turn had received it from a Corinthian priest. The King accepted Paykull's offer and made arrangements for guarding against fraud, appointing General Hamilton of the Royal Artillery to superintend the work of the alchemist. The materials were prepared with great care; Paykull added his "tincture," together with some lead, and the whole was melted together. A mass of gold resulted which was coined into one hundred and forty-seven ducats. A medal was also struck on this occasion, having a weight of two ducats and bearing this inscription: "HOC AURUM ARTE CHIMICA CONFLAVIT HOLMLE 1706. O. A. V. PAYKHULL."

This operation, which was in all probability a mere sleight of hand, was witnessed by General Hamilton, Counsellor Fehman, and the chemist Hiärne; the latter however had some predilections for alchemy, and in his report of the affair did not doubt the verity of the transmutation. Berzelius afterwards took the trouble to examine the documents attesting this transmutation, and came to the conclusion that the process described could not have accomplished the conversion of lead into gold. (Petræus, *Vorrede zu seiner Ausgabe des Basilii Valentini*; also Henckel's *Alchymistische Briefe*, Th. I.; and Berzelius, *Traité de Chimie*, VIII, 7.)

Professional alchemists usually operated upon lead, but Delisle, a low rustic of Provence, excited much astonishment by transforming iron and steel into gold. Although an ignorant, uncultivated man, he succeeded in imposing on persons of learning and influence; even the Bishop of Senes, who was at first incredulous, wrote to the Minister of State and Comptroller-General of the Treasury at Paris, that he "could not resist the evidence of his senses." In 1710, in the presence of the Master of the Mint at Lyons, after distilling with much mystery a yellow liquid, he projected two drops of the liquid upon three ounces of pistol bullets fused with saltpetre and alum, and the molten mass was then poured out on a piece of iron armor where it appeared pure gold, withstanding all tests. The gold thus obtained was coined by the Master of the Mint into medals inscribed "AURUM ARTE FACTUM," and these were deposited in the Museum at Versailles. (Lenglet du Fresnoy, *Histoire de la philosophie hermétique*. Paris, 1741.)

The Landgrave Ernest Louis of Hesse Darmstadt had long been ambitious of accomplishing a projection, and had made many vain experiments, when, in 1716, he received by mail a small package sent by one who did not disclose his identity. The package was found to contain the "red" and the "white tincture," with instructions how to use them, the first for transmuting into gold and the second for silver. The prince himself tested the effect of these tinctures on lead and had great success. With the gold, he had coined, in 1717, several hundred ducats which bore on one side the effigy and the name of the Landgrave, and on the other the lion of Hesse and the letters E. L. (signifying Ernest Louis.) With the silver, he had coined one hundred thalers similarly inscribed, but also bearing in Latin the words: "SIC DEO

PLACUIT IN TRIBULATIONIBUS, 1717." (S. H. Güldenfalk's *Sammlung von mehr als hundert Transmutationsgeschichten*. Frankfurt, 1784.)

Besides the coins and medals made from hermetic gold and silver, there were many other evidences of alchemical skill not less reliable and pleasing. Having no intention, however, of reviewing the history of transmutations in general, we can only allude to a few of these visible and precious proofs of the mystic art. Early in the 17th century, Michael Sendivogius of Poland played a successful rôle as alchemist in many parts of Europe, receiving special favors from crowned heads and wealthy noblemen. In 1604 he went to Prague and was cordially received by Emperor Rudolph II, a devotee of alchemy; Sendivogius presented a morsel of the philosopher's stone to the Emperor, who made a transmutation with his own hands; delighted with his success Rudolph caused to be placed on the wall of the room of the castle in which the event occurred a marble tablet inscribed as follows:

FACIAT HOC QUISPIAM ALIUS
QUOD FECIT SENDIVOGIUS POLONUS!

This tablet was still to be seen in position as late as 1740. Sendivogius was given the title of Counsellor of State, and honored with a medal of the Emperor. (Lenglet du Fresnoy, *Histoire de la philosophie hermétique*. Paris, 1741, Vol. I, p. 339.)

On another occasion Sendivogius delighted the King of Poland, Sigismund II, by transmuting a silver medal into gold without injuring the ornamentation; this he did by merely heating the medal red hot and dipping it into a solution of the "powder" in alcohol. Borel, in his *Antiquités Gauloises*, relates that he saw this crown piece in Paris, and he describes it as "partly gold, so far only as it was steeped in the elixir, and the gold part was porous, being specifically more compact than in its former state in silver; there was, moreover, no appearance of soldering nor any possibility of deception." (Morhof, *Epistola ad Joel Langelottum*. 1673.)

A certain Lascaris, whose movements were mysterious in the extreme and who generally remained incognito, is credited with a remarkable feat in Vienna. On the 20th July, 1716, before a number of important personages, in the palace of the Commander of the Fortress, Lascaris transformed a copper pfennig into silver by plunging it into a certain liquid. This was testified to in legal form by many dignitaries of the Church and of the State.

The Scotch alchemist Alexander Sethon, in 1602, made a projection for his host, James Haussen, a poor sailor; some of the gold he gave to Dr. Vanderlinden, a reputable physician, who engraved on it the date of the transmutation, *March 13th, 1602, at four o'clock*; this piece was seen in the hands of the Doctor's grandson by George Morhof. The same Sethon is credited with another transmutation for a Frankfurt merchant named Coch, with whom he lodged, and from the gold thus obtained shirt buttons were manufactured. (Th. de Hoghelande, *Historiae aliquot transmutationis metallicæ*. Coloniae, 1604.)

In many families of Germany, heirlooms, such as the buttons just named, were treasured and handed down to younger generations as mystical emblems of a lost art; such was the buckle, half silver and half gold, received from an unknown adept by Baron von Creuz of Homburg in 1715; such were the silver

guldens transmuted to gold by Count Caetano, in the city of Berlin (1705); such, too, was the drinking-cup belonging to the Countess Sophie von Erbach, which was changed from silver to gold by an unknown visitor in her castle; such also were the rings and buttons preserved by the Gùldenfolk family as a souvenir of the skill of an adept in 1755.

Those who believed and would persuade others to believe in the transmutation of metals, were further wont to recall the enormous riches of many reputed followers of Hermes, discovered usually after their death. Augustus, Elector of Saxony, who made projections with his own hands, at his death in 1580 left seventeen millions of rix dollars in the treasury; Rudolph II of Germany, already often alluded to, left at his death in 1680, 84 hundred weight of gold and 60 hundred weight of silver, products of hermetic art. Those who would pursue the relations of alchemy and numismatics more fully than our imperfect sketch has allowed, should examine the references cited, and in addition the works mentioned in the last number of the *Journal* (p. 67).

THE ROYAL MEDALS OF CHARLES I.

[From the N. E. Historical and Genealogical Register.]

THE following documents* were found at the commencement of a volume of Elias Ashmole's Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library, among the manuscripts not in the printed Catalogue. As to the two persons who were to question Hugh Peters about the medals and other articles abstracted from the Library in St. James's Palace, Thomas Ross was "the custodian of his Majesty's Libraries," and Elias Ashmole was very learned in all matters of medals and the like, and of course a very fit person for such an investigation.

CHARLES R.

Our Will & pleasure is That you Pmit Thomas Ross & Elias Ashmole Esq^r to speake with and examine Hugh Peters concerning our Books and Meddalls that haue been Embezeled & this to be Pformed in your presence, For w^{ch} this shall be youre warrant, Given at our Court at Whitehall the 10th Day of September 1660, in the Twelwe yeare of Our Reigne.

To Our trusty & welbeloved
S^r John Robinson Kn^t &
Bar^t Lieutenant of Our
Tower of London.

By his Ma^{ties} Comand
EDW NICHOLAS

An Accompt of what M^r Hugh Peters gaue vpon his Examinacon before the ho^{ble} S^r John Robinson Lieu^t of his Ma^{ties} Tower, taken by M^r Ross & M^r Ashmole assigned thereunto 12^o Sept. 1660.

The Examinant Saith, that about the yeare 1648 in August he preserved the Library in St James ag^t the violence & rapine of the Soldiers, & the same continued three or foure moneths vnder his Custody; and that he did not take thence anything, but left it vnviolated as he found it. He doth confess that he saw diu^rs Medalls of Gold, Siluer & Brass, & other peeces of Antiquity, as Iron Rings & the like, but that he tooke nothing thence, & then delivered up the key & Custody of them to Major Gen^l Ireton, And further he saith that he never since came into the Library, nor never had or saw any thing belonging thereto.

HUGH PETERS.

Given vpon oath before me

John Robinson, Lieten : Towre.

* Mr. G. D. Scull, of London, who communicated this paper, has traced, for the New England Historic Genealogical Society, fac-similes of these two interesting documents.

MEDALLION OF FRANKLIN.

THE Franklin Typographical Society, of Boston, celebrated the one hundred and eighty-first anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, on the 17th of January, 1887, at which a large medallion of Franklin was shown by the Secretary. It has a curious history. A number of these medallions were cast in Paris in 1777 to be sent to America, but through some cause or other the package lay neglected until discovered last year, when one of the United States consuls forwarded this one to Rev. Edward Everett Hale, its present owner, who kindly loaned it for exhibition to the Society during the evening.

COLLECTING AMERICAN COINS IN ENGLAND.

AN English collector of American coins, who has had the misfortune to lose by theft from his cabinet in April, 1886, a valuable set of "Lord Baltimore" silver money, consisting of the Shilling, Sixpence, and rare Groat, in unusually fine condition, has issued a circular in reference to it. The Groat was a fine, circular coin, unclipped and perfect; the reverse excellent, the hair of the portrait on the obverse rather worn, the face not well struck up, with a peculiar depression or sinking in of the cheek.

As some months have now been allowed to pass, it is judged that the thief will have gained courage to offer his stolen coins in America. As the above Groat has not been offered to the public for years in America, its sudden appearance will attract attention, and collectors are cautioned. Mr. E. Shorthouse, 5 Charlotte Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, England, Member of the London Numismatic Society, is the sufferer, and he offers to any person in America or England who shall give information which may lead to the conviction of the thief, a reward of £5, and a beautiful U. S. 1796 Cent, with Liberty cap, in absolutely mint condition, for his trouble.

The same writer gives also the following notes on three years' American coin collecting in England, which, he thought, might amuse and interest brother collectors across the Atlantic. Being in easy circumstances, travel and various "hobbies" have taken up some twenty years. The last hobby was coin collecting, begun in 1881. Five years ago fine coins were to be had at about half present prices, and a tremendous "hoard" was obtained; English, American, Canadian, French, early German, Manx, etc. The nucleus of the last was Dr. Clay's hoard, sold for a mere song in New York. Coming back—through Mr. Randall—and persistently added to, it now forms (so say the dealers) "The finest collection of Manx (Isle of Man) pieces in the world."

As late as 1882 United States coins were to be picked up in England very cheaply; now they very seldom occur. Our ignorance of them was, and still is, in most cases, profound. We considered five shillings a fair price for an uncirculated 1796 Cent (not the humorously called "cabinet friction, uncirculated" of the U. S. sales) but absolutely as from the die; like a proof. A very fine 1795 Cent, with thick lettered edge, a gentleman had put out of his collection amongst his "wasters." "These," he remarked, "I do not value at anything." They went at one shilling apiece. A lovely 1794 Dollar stood

for two years in the "Bureau de Change" window, Charing Cross Station, London, staring at the British public; the writer could have had it a dozen times at £1. It was finally swept off by Mr. Randall on his last visit to the British Isles. Four or five fine 1796 Half Cents were also waiting in Birmingham for the latter. We considered them worth about half-a-crown; indeed, a fine one came in from Derby, while Mr. Randall was in Birmingham, at the modest price of one shilling!

During his three years' hunt the writer acquired the unique pattern small silver "Bit" or "Bill" (1783) of 100 units. Obv., U. S. in wreath, LIBERTAS, JUSTITIA; rev., NOVA CONSTELLATIO, eye, rays, and stars (size of English six-pence). Knowing about as much about it as the average Christian knows about the origin of evil, he forwarded it to his friend Mr. W. Elliot Woodward of America, one of those dealers (unfortunately "few and far between") with whom an English gentleman can deal with safety and pleasure. He at once candidly stated that it was "a gem!" Although its existence had for years been suspected (ever since Mr. Mickley's sale in 1867), only the Dollar and Half Dollar had been discovered. Both these are in the grand collection of L. G. Parmelee, Esq., Boston, where the writer trusts his little "Bit" has also found a home.

Placed in Mr. W.'s 73d sale (April, 1885) at the well-meaning, judicious reserve of \$550 (£110), it finally went off in the 83d sale, April 27th, 1886, lot 1,064, for \$272 (£54). The fact was, it was obtained (with some other small U. S. coins) for 2s. 3d. (55 cents) from the shop window of T. F. Cloud, Pawnbroker, 207 High Holborn, London. This incident is mentioned as an encouragement to young beginners in Numismatics. It is something for a mere novice to add an hitherto unknown example to the coin series of a great empire. Among the hundreds of U. S. coins he has now got together in very beautiful condition, only a few "plums" can be mentioned. An "AMERI" Cent, in mint condition; another, fine; a 1795 Cent, thick lettered edge, in absolutely uncirculated state (an extremely rare coin in such a state); a 1796, with Liberty cap, in equal condition, resembles a proof; six fine 1793 Cents, with four distinct types of leaves under bust; 23 Cents of 1794, all with differences, some in mint state; two fine 1804 Cents, the last cost 4½d. (9 cents;) a 1799 Cent, in mint state, was just missed at 7s. 6d., which seemed fairly moderate; 1793, '94, '95, '96 Half Cents, nearly mint; Rosa Americana sets (mint); New England Shilling; Annapolis ditto, very fine; 1796 and 1797 Dimes, as from the die; a brilliant proof of the 1796 Quarter Dollar; Baltimore money; "pine" and "oak tree" money, some very fine; 1795, etc., silver Dollars, in brilliant mint condition; Bank of Montreal 1838 and '39 (side view of house), in perfect mint state; and an extreme rarity, the "Pitt, No Stamps" Cent, in the small Half Cent size, almost uncirculated; only one other of these has occurred in England since he began collecting, namely, a poor one in Frentzel's sale, December, 1881, at Sotheby's, Strand.

American coins, compared with those of other nations, appear to the writer to be unquestionably the most uninteresting series in the world. No portraits of past Presidents; no historical memories awakened; nothing but rows of coins almost exactly alike, save an interminable row of different dates. The (no doubt) well-meaning, but everlasting eagle (manipulating a claw full of spears with indifferent success), and the equally interminable female por-

trait (whom no one seems to know, but who, like Queen Victoria, retains her youthful features on the coins, as the ages roll by, in a wondrous manner), are certainly discouraging to a collector. Feeling, therefore, no interest in them, save the financial one, it is suggested that some American gentleman, wishing to acquire a very fine U. S. collection, had better come over next summer, visit the proposed U. S. Exhibition in London, and take away the collection to that great and amazing country (which the writer visited with such pleasure in 1876), and to which it properly belongs, and where it will doubtless be properly appreciated.

METALLIC RECORDS OF LUTHER.

THE Rev. Henry Scadding, D. D., Canon of Toronto, Canada, read a paper at the celebration in that city of the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther, which described a number of medals struck in honor of that famous Reformer. This paper, although issued in pamphlet form some time since, has not received, in this country at least, so wide a circulation as it deserves, both from the interest of the subject, and the excellent descriptions which it gives. As the subject of the Luther Medals has often been referred to in our pages, yet without so full treatment as we should be glad to have given it, we cheerfully comply with the suggestion which has been made to us, and print the paper in the *Journal*.

THE French have an expression which we have not yet adopted, but which among the other French expressions occasionally found convenient, we might adopt with advantage: Metallic History (*Histoire Métallique*). To describe in English what the expression means, we have to employ the circumlocution: History as recorded on Coins and Medals. We want a shorter way of saying this, as such History has now often to be referred to, specifically. The inscriptions and portraits, the miniature representations of incidents and delineations of places and buildings, together with the symbols and allegorical groups, met with on coins and medals, are all found to be of considerable importance. In some cases they have supplied gaps in historical narrations which could not otherwise have been filled up. Most of the modern illustrated works on history, and the historical articles in Encyclopædias, abound, as we must have observed, with cuts of coins and medals, coeval as nearly as possible with the incidents and persons and times spoken of. These reproductions, appealing at once to the eye, enable us often to realize with great vividness the facts, the scenes, the agents, described in the text.

For purposes of study, Metallic Histories, or books containing a series of accurate copies of historical coins and medals, in chronological order, are the next thing to the coins and medals themselves, which it falls to the lot of few persons to possess, or sometimes even to have access to, and handle for a few moments. In many cases such coins and medals are excessively rare; and in some cases the specimen is absolutely unique, so far as known. Hence Metallic Histories are laid hold of with avidity by numismatic amateurs and others, whenever they have the chance. It is thus that I have happened to accumulate a good many of this class of books; and it has occurred to me that one of them might be brought forward with acceptance on the present occasion, when the Quater-centenary of Luther is being so generally celebrated. It contains in it a large number of copper-plate etchings of medals illustrative of Luther's life and times. I refer to a work by a German scholar named Christian Juncker, who lived some two centuries back. It is written in Latin and was printed at Schleusingen in 1699 by George William Goebel, for George Andrew Endter, bookseller, of Nuremberg, and sold by him at Frankfort and Leipsic. It is a duodecimo, bound in fine white vellum. The whole title of the book, translated, reads thus: "A Life of Dr. Martin Luther, and History of the Successes of the Evangelical Reformation, and of the Evangelical Jubilees, confirmed and illustrated by one hundred and forty-five medals and a

few rare portraits : thus comprising not only a narrative of the rise and progress of the Evangelical Reformation, but also curious notices of numerous particulars of Luther's family and relics of himself deposited here and there in Museums and Libraries ; affording, likewise, down through the subsequent events, a convenient account of the Evangelical Jubilees."

The Evangelical Jubilees here mentioned were the festive commemorations of important incidents in the history of the Reformation, held in the various cities of Germany, up to the date of Juncker's book, 1699 : occasions always marked by the issue of medals, silver or bronze or white metal, bearing appropriate inscriptions and devices. Towards the end of the volume numerous medals commemorative of such Jubilees are figured and described. The few rare portraits spoken of in the title-page to Juncker's book are heads of Luther's father and mother ; of Luther himself at various stages of his career ; of his wife Catharine Von Bora, and of his daughter Magdalena, all of them, I believe, after Lucas Cranach. The volume is dedicated to a near ancestor of our George the First, who bore the same title : Rudolph Augustus, Duke of Brunswick and Luneburg, to whose family Christian Juncker was official historiographer.

On the medals presented to us in Juncker's book, the image and superscription of Luther, of course, continually appear. The heads of the Reformer, however, as seen on the medals do not, with any closeness, agree with one another. Artists and engravers seem to have allowed themselves to form their own ideals of the man. Most of us, I suppose, have a Luther pictured in our minds, just as we have a Shakespeare. In both cases the variations in the current portraits are quite considerable. Nevertheless there are characteristics enough, common to all of them, to enable us to recognize almost immediately any portrait or bust or statue intended for either Shakespeare or Luther. Differences to the contrary notwithstanding, we know Luther on these medals by his bluff, good-tempered, powerful, honest face ; his leonine eye ; his taurine neck and massive shoulders ; his heavy scholastic gown. Occasionally the head is extensively tonsured, and the monk's cowl appears thrown back. Sometimes the countenance is seen in profile and sometimes as turned towards the spectator. In the later medals the features are more emaciated, and furrowed over with lines of thought and patient endurance of suffering.

The first medal which I shall mention is one showing on the obverse a head of Luther with face turned towards the beholder. The aspect is youthful. The epigraph or superscription at the margin is: DOCTOR MARTINUS LUTHERUS EISLEBENSIS. [Dr. Martin Luther of Eisleben.] Having greatly distinguished himself as a Professor and Lecturer on Philosophy and Divinity at the University of Wittenberg, and having succeeded well also in a mission to Rome on business of great importance to the Augustinian monastic community, of which he was a member, he was required by his superiors, quite against his own inclination, to receive the degree of Doctor, on St. Luke's Day, Oct. 19th, 1512. A portion of the oath taken on the occasion was to the effect that he would study and proclaim the Holy Scriptures all his life, and also defend the holy Christian faith in writing and preaching, against all heresies. These words in the assumption of a Doctor's degree had become somewhat of a dead formula. But Luther took them as real words, and conscientiously acted upon them.

On the reverse of the medal, running in straight lines across, is the following inscription in Latin : "Luther the Theologian, was born at Eisleben, in Saxony ; a man pious, energetic and brave : the Elias of the last age." It may seem strange that the year of his birth is not named. The explanation is this : The inscription is what is called a chronogram, and it gives the date, after a mystical fashion, not unusual at the time. Certain letters which, as Roman capitals, serve as numerals, are engraved larger or higher than the rest. The sum total of the letters, thus distinguished, when taken as numerals, is 1483. The Latin inscription is : "LVTHERVs, THEOLOGVs, IN SAXONIA, VIR PIVs ET ELIAS VLTIMI sECVLI, NATVs EST EISLEBII, VIVAX ET FORTIs." The *u* in many Latin legends and inscriptions is represented by the older form *v*, and stands for 5. Then we have : M = 1000 : C = 100 : six L = 300 : ten V = 50 : two X = 20 : thirteen I = 13. Together 1483.

The Elias of the last age: ELIAS ULTIMI SECULI. So Luther was deemed in his day and generation. The third Elias: TERTIUS ELIAS, appears inscribed round his head on another medal: the first being, of course, the original Elias, Elijah the Tishbite, who preached reform in the kingdom of Israel in the times of Ahab and Jezebel: and the second, John the Baptist, who, in the spirit and power of the first Elias, preached reform to the Jewish nation just before the public ministry of the Messiah. The reverse of this medal shows an angel flying through the midst of heaven, bearing in his hand a book, marked "ÆTERNUM EVANGELIUM," and sounding a trumpet aloft, with the words running round the margin: CECIDIT, CECIDIT BABYLON MAGNA. [Babylon the great, hath fallen, hath fallen.] Below the angel a heavy cloud is rolling away. Death, a skeleton, is seen fleeing, and underneath are the ruins of a city. The drift of this imagery is manifest: but an allusion to a special fact in history may be latent. In 1527 Germany and the world were astounded by the news that the city of Rome had been taken and sacked by a German army, and its bishop, Julius de Medici, Clement VII, imprisoned in the castle of St. Angelo. This startling incident may have suggested the medal.

Again: There is a direct reference to the Elijah-like character of the Reformer in the inscription seen surrounding his head on another medal: CURRUS ET AURIGA ISRAELIS. [The chariot and charioteer of Israel.]

Luther indeed was saluted, not solely as another Elijah, but in more general terms as The Prophet of Germany: the instructor of the Teutons. This title is adjudged to him still, throughout the immensely enlarged area which the Teutons now occupy. In him was openly initiated the Teutonic phase of Christianity, which is expected by many to take, in its turn, the place of the Latin phase, as that did of the Greek, in the Divine order of things. On a medal in the work before us, we have Luther grasping with both hands a book, and the inscription round the margin: MARTINUS LUTHERUS, PROPHETA GERMANIÆ: 1537. [Martin Luther, the Prophet of Germany: 1537.] On the reverse is a shield supported by angels and displaying an emblem which was a favorite with Luther: it was engraved upon his seal: an open rose with a human heart at its centre, bearing on it or over it a cross. The motto surrounds it: IN SILENTIO ET SPE ERIT FORTITUDO VESTRA. [In silence and in hope shall be your strength.] This symbol, on another medal, I observe, has the words: IN PATIENTIA SUAVITAS [In endurance there is sweetness] round it; and on the reverse of this specimen is the rhyming couplet in German, now become somewhat archaic:

"Der Christen Herz auf Rosen geht
Mens mitten unter dem Creuz steht."

"The Christ-like heart the Cross below,
Around its path sees roses blow."

Several medals seek to make manifest a relation between John Huss, the great Bohemian Reformer, and Luther. Huss, as we shall remember, derived his light, under God, from "the morning star of the Reformation," our John Wycliffe, whose writings and translation of the New Testament he had met with. Huss was in a position of great influence, being President of the University at Prague. His King, Wenceslaus, protected him within the limits of his jurisdiction, just as John of Gaunt and Lord Henry Percy protected Wycliffe, and Frederic, Elector of Saxony, and other nobles, protected Luther, but with less success. A safe conduct granted to Huss by the Emperor Sigismund, was dishonorably repudiated by that priest-ridden prince; and, when once in the power of the Latin authorities at Constance, the Bohemian Reformer, without interposition on the part of Sigismund, was mercilessly devoted by them to the flames. When the sentence was pronounced upon him, and about to be carried into effect, he, with solemnity, said to his judges: "For this, in one hundred years, ye shall answer to God, and to me." These words were pronounced in 1415. The prediction was regarded as fulfilled in the successes of Luther, which began to take place about one hundred years later. On one of Juncker's medals we have the heads of Huss and Luther together. Each holds a book. On a band round the outer margin are

Huss's memorable words, given thus: CENTUM ANNIS REVOLUTIS, DEO ET MIHI RESPONDEBITIS. VATICINIUM JOHANNIS HUSSU, COMBUSTI, ANNO 1415. [After one hundred years ye shall answer to God and to me. The vaticination of John Huss; burnt 1415.] Then, on an inner band, we have the reputed fulfillment of the prediction put on record thus: HIS LAPSI ANNIS, DOCTOR MARTINUS LUTHERUS AD REPARANDAM DOCTRINAM CAELITUS A DEO EXCITATUS EST, ANNO 1517. [These years having passed, Dr. Martin Luther was stirred up from on high, by God, to undertake the purification of doctrine: 1517.]

Another prophetic saying of John Huss, popularly held to have been verified in Luther, is commemorated again and again, on the medals. The meaning of the proper name Huss in Bohemian is Goose. When Huss was being committed to the flames, he said to his executioners: "Ye may burn this Goose; but from its ashes will rise hereafter a Swan whose singing ye shall not be able to silence." Accordingly we have on the medals a swan as the symbol of Luther; and sometimes a swan stands by him.

On one medal we have a large swan swimming in open water, illuminated by rays descending from the sacred Tetragram above, representing God. Encircling all this is the inscription: OLOR INVICTUS VIRTUTE DIVINA: 1517. [A swan, through power from God, unconquered: 1517].

Round another swimming swan, of later date, are these words in Luther's vernacular: "Auf Wasser lauter swam ein Swan Weiss. [In water clear a white swan swam.]

And round another swan in similar action is the German rhyming distich:

"Gottes Wort ist Luther's Lehr;
Darumb verghet sie nimmer mehr."

"What God's book saith, doth Luther say:
So Luther's words do bide away."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

NUMISMATA SOLIDA.

THE following account of what may be considered "money" of a decidedly unique character, has been copied for the *Journal* by a New York correspondent. The mystery attaching to the stone remains of a cyclopean character, in Easter Island and some others in the Southern Pacific, has never been solved, and this stone money of another Southern Pacific island mentioned in the extract below, seems to be equally difficult to account for. It is the more remarkable if the statement of the Gazetteers is true, that the mountains of Yap—the largest island, said to be nine miles long, and which gives its name to the group—contains the precious metals.

The natives—numbering between eight and ten thousand—build enormous houses, roofed in and walled at the sides with mats, and construct stone piers or jetties of great length. Some of these villages are remarkably picturesque. The dwellings stand on mounds of earth, often nearly one hundred feet square, the sides of which are cased with stones. Against these, the rich place the *extraordinary money* which can be found perhaps *only in these islands*. It is composed of large *discs* of arragonite, often of great size. *Six feet in diameter, twelve inches in thickness*, and an estimated weight of *three tons*, are not uncommon dimensions. The largest known piece is said to be 9 feet 4 inches in diameter, 15 inches thick at the hole in the centre, and 7 at the edge. The weight of this was estimated by an American trader, who helped to move it, at *four tons and a half*. This *money* is *not* used as a *medium of exchange* (!) but for purposes of ostentation,—the richest men being those who can pile most of it against the earthen platforms on which their houses stand,—and as a ceremonial present on solemn occasions, like the bits of seventeenth century European glass, called money in the Pelew Islands, and the "tamboa," or whale's teeth of Fiji. The arragonite quarry is in the harbor of Malakat Korr island, in the Pelews. At that place about a hundred Yap men are allowed by King Abba Thoul to reside, for the purpose of quarrying the stone.

Yap, or Ouap, or Gouap, is a group in a northeast direction in the Caroline Archipelago between the Pelew and Mackenzie groups.

What lovely times collectors would have in getting proof specimens into their cabinets, eh?

I. F. W.

THE 1804 DOLLAR.

Editors American Journal of Numismatics:

THE following statement contains the names of the present owners of the Dollars of 1804, together with the history of each piece. If any of the readers of the *Journal* know of the existence of other Dollars of that date, such information will be gladly received by the undersigned, in order that the list may be complete.

The United States Mint did not have in its possession a Dollar of 1804 when M. Alexandre Vattmare visited the Mint in 1838. It is known that after that date a number of pieces were made from the dies, and also that additional pieces were struck previous to the destruction of the dies in 1869.

The first three pieces named in the following list are without doubt original Dollars coined in 1804. The first two of these are known to have been in circulation; the third has been in the possession of Dr. Spiers and the present owner for more than fifty years, and is described by an officer of the Mint as "not much worn," showing that it also has been in circulation. All the other pieces enumerated are uncirculated and were probably struck from the dies since the year 1838, and are what are termed re-strikes.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

JOHN A. NEXSEN.

I. WILLIAM S. APPLETON. Boston.

This Dollar was received on deposit by the Bank of Pennsylvania. The teller who received it was Mr. Henry C. Young, afterwards Cashier of the Commonwealth Bank, Philadelphia. Mr. Joseph J. Mickley of Philadelphia obtained it from the Bank of Pennsylvania, and it remained in his possession many years. At the sale of his coins in 1867, it was bought by Mr. W. A. Lilliendahl for \$750. He subsequently sold it to Mr. Edward Cogan for the same price. It passed from Mr. Cogan to Mr. Appleton in exchange for duplicates from his collection, supposed to be of the value of \$1,000.

II. WILLIAM B. WETMORE. New York.

About the year 1865 this piece came into the possession of Mr. Edward Cohen, now the President of the City Bank of Richmond. He was then keeping an office in Richmond for the exchange of bills, gold and silver. Subsequently he sold it to his uncle, Col. M. J. Cohen, of Baltimore. At the Cohen sale in 1875 it was purchased by Mr. H. S. Adams, of Boston, for \$325. Mr. Adams sold it in 1876 to Mr. L. G. Parmelee for \$500, from whom Mr. H. G. Sampson bought it, in 1878, for \$600; he sold it to Mr. Wetmore, the same year, for \$625.

III. SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA PIONEERS. San Francisco.

This Dollar was obtained by Charles Spiers, M. D., of San Francisco, about the year 1835, and presented by him several years ago to the Society of California Pioneers, who have deposited it for safe keeping in the Mint at San Francisco.

IV. L. G. PARMELEE. Boston.

Mr. E. H. Sanford obtained this piece in 1868, from a lady, who got it from the U. S. Mint. Mr. Parmelee bought it at the sale of Mr. Sanford's collection, in 1874, for \$700.

V. MATTHEW A. STICKNEY. Salem, Mass.

Mr. Stickney received this Dollar in 1843, from the U. S. Mint, in exchange for "Immune Columbia" in gold, and other rare coins.

VI. J. P. LYMAN. Boston.

Mr. Phineas Adams paid Mr. Haseltine \$550 for this piece. Mr. Adams sold it to Mr. Henry Ahlborn of Boston, from whom the present owner obtained it, with a full set of American Dollars, for the sum of \$4,800.

VII. GEORGE M. KLEIN. Vicksburg, Miss.

This piece was sold in 1877 by Mr. Haseltine to Mr. R. C. Davis, of Philadelphia, and resold by him to Mr. Haseltine in 1883, from whom it passed to the present owner, it is said, for \$1,200.

VIII. J. V. DEXTER. Denver, Col.

Messrs. S. H. & S. Chapman claim to have purchased this Dollar in Berlin, in 1884. At their sale in May, 1885, it was sold to Mr. Dexter for \$1,000.

IX and X. UNITED STATES MINT. Philadelphia.

The Mint has two specimens; one with a lettered edge, and one plain edge.

INDIAN MEDALS.

THE following account of an interesting Indian ornament, somewhat of a medallion character, has been kindly furnished the *Journal*, by Mr. R. A. Brock of Virginia.

THERE is in the possession of Aubin L. Boulware, Esq., whose wife is a daughter of the late Hon. William Ballard Preston, and a granddaughter of James Patton Preston, Governor of Virginia, a very curious relic of Colonial Virginia, found in the quaint old Preston seat "Smithfield," Montgomery County, Virginia. It is an ornament of copper, heavily plated with gold. From its shape, which is similar to that of a horse's hoof, Mr. Boulware was inclined to conjecture that it might have been one of the golden horse-shoes which Governor Spotswood gave to his followers in his famous tra-montane expedition in 1716, in commemoration of that event. The ornament is in length about four and a half inches, and in breadth about three inches, with holes in the upper ends, doubtless for the insertion of a string or ribbon with which to suspend it from the neck on the breast. It is engraved on the front with the monogram G. R. (the two letters combined), the symbols of Georgius Rex, surmounted by a crown, and flanked on either side with a leaved branch, the stems joining beneath. It may be assumed that it was designed as a breastplate and as a token of friendship from the colonists to the Indians under their protection. It was probably issued in the reign of George II.

These distinctions for the Indians in amity with the whites,—medals or badges, were early provided. It was enacted by the Virginia Assembly, March, 1661-2, "that badges (viz.), silver plates, and copper plates, with the names of the towne graven upon them, be given to all adjacent kings within our protection." (Henning's Statutes, II, page 142.) An example of these badges is in the cabinet of the Virginia Historical Society. It is of silver, oblong in shape, measuring one and a half inches one way by two the other, engraved with floral designs, and inscribed, "Ye King of Patomecke." A similar example, one presented "Ye King of Pamunkie," is pictured and described in Willis's Current Notes, London, December, 1852; and in the American Historical and Literary Curiosities, Second Series, Plate XXXIX, is presented an engraving of a silver frontlet, with the British arms, etc., which once adorned the brow of the "Queen of Pamunkey." The French and Spanish were also in the habit of presenting these tokens of friendship to their Indian allies, and the custom was continued by the United States Government at all treaties, certainly until a recent period, if it be not still in practice.*

Governor Dinwiddie, writing to Col. George Washington, June 2, 1754 (the period of the French and Indian war), says: "I have sent you some medals for y'r self, Colo. Fry, the Half-King, Monucatoocha, the chiefs of the Delawares, and Shawnesse, to wear as Tokens of His Majesty's Favour." *Dinwiddie Papers*, Vol. I, pp. 189-190, Collections of the Virginia Historical Society. In all probability the very interesting memorial in the possession of Mr. Boulware was one of the period just cited, and of a number intrusted to Colonel William Preston, or to his father, Colonel John Preston, the pioneer founder of the distinguished family of the name, for distribution to the friendly Indians in the section near his residence.

R. A. BROCK.

* A reference to the medals of the "King of Pato-meck" and the "King of Pamunkie" will be found in Vol. V, p. 82, of the *Journal*. The Queen of Pamunkie's medal, or frontlet, is described in Vol. X, p. 86.

CONTINENTAL CURRENCY DOLLAR.

Editors of the American Journal of Numismatics:

It may interest the readers of the *Journal* to learn of our latest important acquisition, which is the very piece concerning which there was a query in the January issue, page 72, viz.: The first dollar of the United States, 1776. Obverse, Sun-dial with sun shining upon it; beneath, in two lines, MIND YOUR BUSINESS; encircled by two lines, between which, near the sun, FUGIO; and under the dial, E G FECIT, the whole surrounded by CONTINENTAL CURRENCY, 1776. Reverse, Thirteen links intertwined, each bearing the name (abbreviated) of a State (beginning at the top with New Hampshire, and reading to the right in geographical order to Georgia) surrounding a radiated band inscribed AMERICAN CONGRESS, inside of which, WE ARE ONE, in three lines. Border, beaded. Edge, a continuous band of twin laurel leaves. Weight, 363½ grains. Silver. Extremely fine, sharp impression, and bearing every appearance of having been struck in 1776 for circulation; not like a proof or specially struck piece. The reverse shows a very faint crack in the die. It is without doubt unique, and until now impressions from this die were unknown in silver. We do not forget that Mr. Parmelee also has a unique specimen in silver, which, we learn from Mr. Colburn, bears the lettering E. G. FECIT, but is from the die with *one* R in CURRENCY, and on which the link inscribed MASSACHS. precedes N. HAMP'S; this was previously in the Clay collection.

As stated in the January number of the *Journal*, the piece in our possession was sold in London, December 17th last, and brought £20 10s., but before we obtained it it had changed hands twice, each time at a considerable advance, and we had to pay a large price to procure it.

The very devices on this coin were used on the $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ of a dollar bills, issued under authority of Congress at Philadelphia, February 17, 1776; and again, July 6, 1787, this device was ordered by Congress to be placed on the Cents to be issued in that year,—the pieces commonly known as Franklin or Fugio Cents. From a foot note, page 302, in Mr. Crosby's valuable work,* it would appear that the originator of this quaint design was either Judge Hopkinson or David Rittenhouse; but may there not be a likelihood that it was suggested by Benjamin Franklin? The motto, "Mind your business," is quite characteristic of "Poor Richard," and in harmony with "A penny saved is a penny earned." Then again, Franklin designed, and Dupré engraved, the beautiful Libertas Americana medal, commemorating the Independence of the United States, and the victories over Burgoyne at Saratoga, and Cornwallis at Yorktown.

It will no doubt be noticed that in our description of the piece we call the *sun-dial* the obverse, contrary to Crosby, who regards it as the reverse, for what reason is not apparent, unless it be that he follows the way it is described in the Resolution of July 6, 1787, which may have been caused through carelessness or inattention to the important point of obverse and reverse. On the bills referred to (which are not rare), the sun dial is placed on the face, the chain of links on the back, quite conclusive proof, we think, that that was the way it was intended by its designers to be considered.

Philadelphia, March 24, 1887.

S. H. & H. CHAPMAN.

WHILE the Messrs. Chapman suggest a very plausible reason for considering the sun-dial the obverse of this piece, we are not convinced that Mr. Crosby and numismatists generally are wrong in an opposite view. A coin, first of all, must show by its "image and superscription" the power by which it is issued, which authorizes its circulation, and makes it 'money,' rather than a mere token or medal. It seems probable, as our correspondents suggest, that this is the first dollar of the United States, and perhaps the best reason for this opinion is the device of the chain, symbolizing the thirteen States, a well known and favorite national emblem of the period, and the legend AMERICAN CONGRESS, indicating the power by which it was struck. On the other hand, it is difficult to find any connection between the sun-dial as an emblem, and the new-born empire. The rising, or it may be the meridian sun, with its Latin motto 'I fly,' seems to typify something transitory and evanescent, which was very far from the hopes and aspirations of those who ordered the coinage.

* See Crosby's "Early Coins of America," p. 298.

Barton, in his *Memoirs of Rittenhouse*, considers the sun-dial, etc., the *reverse* of the Franklin Cents, which bear substantially the same devices, while Watson, quoted by Crosby, (*Chemical Essays*, Dublin, 1791) agrees with our correspondents, calling the *chain* the reverse; but we must adhere to our opinion that Crosby's description is correct, and that the framers of the Resolution of 1787 were neither careless nor inattentive.

As to their query whether Franklin may not have suggested the motto in exergue,—MIND YOUR BUSINESS—we presume our friends overlooked the extract given by Crosby from Barton's *Memoirs*, p. 467, which seems to settle conclusively that this thrifty advice emanated from the clock-dial constructed by Rittenhouse some twenty years before. Hon. J. Hammond Trumbull wrote to the *Journal* in 1875, (Vol. x: p. 36) that neither Rittenhouse nor Hopkinson originated the devices on the Continental bills, but that "most of them are taken from the emblem books, or from Dutch medals of the previous century."

We judge from Crosby that there were certainly five dies, possibly six, if we include the alterations, and some of them were apparently combined. We now have impressions in silver from four of these; it seems hardly probable that the other two, which were most likely mere experimental or retouched dies, were ever used to strike silver, yet it is not impossible that such impressions may yet be discovered. — Eds.

HALIFAX FERRY TOKENS.

MR. FROSSARD has kindly furnished for the *Journal*, a letter from Mr. Henry Hechler, of Halifax, N. S., giving an explanation of the find of "Ferry Tokens," so many of which came suddenly upon the market quite recently.

THESE tokens were ordered from England and struck there. When the order was filled *the dies were destroyed*. Soon after the company received them, the old Colonial law, which permitted private firms and corporations to issue metallic tokens of money value, was repealed. The company then had to keep all that had not been uttered, and to redeem all that were offered for redemption within a certain time. This accounts for the slightly used specimens of comparatively dull color. As might be expected, some were not offered for redemption, and these have gradually worked their way, in various conditions of preservation, into the hands of collectors and dealers. Those held by the company were stored away in its offices, and, as time lapsed, were forgotten. On the ferry lands, some time since, the offices were torn down, when some of the workmen engaged in demolishing the building found a number of the tokens thus stored away. The finders at once appropriated them, and disposed of them wherever they could find a purchaser, and at any price they could get. The market being thus suddenly overstocked, prices fell rapidly—especially since only a few persons were acquainted with the facts, and numerous theories were advanced in the endeavor to account for so many appearing at once. In the absence of definite knowledge on the point, some of these theories were accepted as truth by many. I live on the spot, and having taken the trouble to enquire carefully into the matter, am satisfied that the above is correct.

H. H.

Halifax, N. S., 18th Feb., 1887.

IMPORTANT Roman remains have been discovered at Lescar (Basses Pyrénées). It is conjectured that the explorers have lighted on the site of the Roman town Beneharnum, which was destroyed by the Goths as they passed onward to the invasion of Spain. The foundations of a fortified camp have been laid bare, and on a hill at a short distance, connected with the camp by a road, the plan of an extensive palace, with large baths, can be made out. All the rooms excavated are paved with mosaics. From the coins so far found, it is supposed that the palace is of the time of the Emperor Gordian III. Between the hills or valleys and table lands on which the palace and camp lie, in all probability the town of Beneharnum stood.

HOMES OF THE MOUND BUILDERS.

EVIDENCES of prehistoric occupation of this country are probably found nowhere so distinct, unmistakable, and numerous as they are in western New York, and especially in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties. These relics have long attracted the attention and prompted the investigation of competent local scientific men and antiquarians, and within the past five years have called to the locality many eminent savants, who have made this subject a life-long study.

Near the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek there is a series of earthworks that extends to the Conewanga Valley. Between Lake Erie and Dayton are the remains of a circular sepulchral mound, which has an elevation of ten feet. It is one hundred and twenty feet in circumference. According to antiquaries, this mound must have been the burying-place of some great warrior. In the towns of Lear and Conewanga, some years ago, eight skeletons were found. They were in a sitting posture, and were arranged in a circle. A most remarkable circumstance connected with this exhumation was the finding of large blocks of mica in the mounds among the skeletons. Professor Lakin of Randolph, who has given the subject much attention and study, is of the opinion that whatever people might have built these mounds, they must have regarded mica as a sacred substance, for in all the burial-mounds that have been opened in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties large blocks of mica have been uncovered. As there are no deposits of that mineral in the region where the relics are unearthed, its presence has always been a mystery to scientists. One of these ancient mounds was opened in the village of Randolph. Three well-preserved skeletons of human beings, who must have been of a race much larger in stature than ours, were found, each with a large block of mica at its feet, the blocks being three inches thick and almost transparent. On this particular mound a tree three feet in diameter was growing. The roots of the tree had pushed their way down into the ancient sepulchre, and were entwined about the skeletons.

When the first white settler came into this region, more than a century ago, the remains of numerous fortifications, sepulchres, hearths and earth symbols were all well defined. The most of these were levelled in time by the owners of the land, whose desire to utilize the soil outweighed their interest in the preservation of the unwritten records of an extinct race. Relics in skeletons, pottery, implements, and weapons thus uncovered, were very common in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties fifty years ago. They formed portions of the unvalued garret litter of nearly every farmhouse in that region. Many of these, fortunately, escaped the unappreciative touch of their possessors, and are now among the most prized antiquities of the famous collections in the country. Some of them were secured by collectors in Europe. Without doubt one of the finest collections of this kind in the world belongs to Professor Lakin, and is made up chiefly of relics discovered in the mounds of these two counties.

Although the greatest number of the mound formations marking the presence of an extinct race have been obliterated by the farmer, and by the building of railroads and wagon roads, there are still many remaining, and in such preservation as to present an intelligent and interesting record to the antiquary. A specially interesting relic of that age is an earth formation near the New York, Pennsylvania & Ohio Railroad station in Randolph. According to those who have read the customs of the mound builders by the monuments they have left, this was fashioned many centuries ago and was designed to represent a serpent. The formation is 425 feet in length, and enthusiastic antiquarians who visit it, bear unanimous testimony in declaring its unmistakable resemblance to a huge snake basking in the sun. The farmer on whose property this symbol is, was ploughing around what the antiquarians say is the head of the serpent, a few years ago. Near that extremity stood the stump of a tree, which tradition says had fallen with age when the place was settled. The stump was over three feet in circumference, and its presence on this mound was unmistakable evidence of the great age of the earthwork. The farmer ploughed so close to the edge of the mound that his ploughshare caught in a projecting root of the old stump. The earth

was raised for a foot or more beneath it, uncovering a number of stone spear heads of a pattern and finish that showed workmanship much superior to that by which the later flint arrows of the Indians were fashioned. The mound was explored for a short distance and nearly 200 spear and arrow points were found, all heaped together in one spot. Several stone axes, polished and symmetrical, and many fine specimens of block mica were also uncovered. There are still 200 feet of this remarkable effigy which have not been disturbed. Other excavations made near Randolph have revealed roomy mica-lined cells, some containing large quantities of parched corn in good preservation. Around some of these singular tumuli deep and wide ditches had been dug by the ancient workmen.

The largest number of mounds and other evidences of the time when this extinct race existed, are found in the eastern part of Chautauqua County, mostly along the high lands and promontories bordering the valleys of the larger streams. On the summit of the ridge of hills overlooking the Conewango Valley, at the height of two hundred feet, in the midst of a forest, is a large and regularly-shaped mound, plainly having been formed from soil taken from the surrounding locality, as traces of the original excavation are distinctly visible. In the vicinity, deep in the soil, many remains of human bones were found only last year. They seem to have been burned before burial.

NUMISMATIC NOTES.

BY LYMAN H. LOW.

PEDESTRIANS through Union Square, New York, may observe in a stationer's window a base imitation of an English note paper, with a well-executed copy in relief, of a United States Cent, type and variety of the second coinage of 1843, dated 1815, with the familiar quotation of "A penny for your thoughts." This appropriation may pass very well and be accepted as a novelty in stationery, but, by the numismatist, it is rejected. He might tolerate calling a cent a penny, but it is beyond his endurance to find it dated in a year when none were struck and preceding the appearance of the type twenty-eight years.

Collectors, and especially those interested in Hellenic art, will find a treat in the *March Century*, which contains a twelve-page article on the "Coinage of the Greeks," by Wm. J. Stillman. It is illustrated with forty three finely-executed engravings of the most notable types, drawn from specimens in the cabinets of prominent American collectors, and the British Museum.

The celebrated Montenuovo Collection, which was purchased about seven years ago, and has since been offered to collectors at fixed prices in upward of twenty five parts (the last appearing since January 1st), was purchased for the sum of 640,000 marks. It proved a profitable venture, and was the means of bringing into permanent prominence the dealer who secured it. There was recently offered to a New York dealer a collection of English coins, valued at £25,000; also one of Chinese, exclusively, for the sum of £500.

Mr. Arthur Engel, a prominent numismatist, and a resident of Paris, is making a tour of the world. He has recently arrived in New York, where his gentlemanly bearing and numismatic intelligence at once gave him entrée to the best circles in the science. The choicest cabinets were opened for his inspection, and he was the guest of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society at a recent meeting. Its large library gained much of his attention, as did also the Astor Library, the day following. Mr. Engel will visit Philadelphia, Boston, Montreal, and other large cities, after which he will take his leave of this country at San Francisco.

Three New York numismatists have recently been become members of the London Numismatic Society.

"Historia Numorum, a Manual of Greek Numismatics," by Barclay V. Head, assistant keeper of coins in the British Museum. This publication, just issued, is unquestionably one of the most valuable additions to the bibliography of numismatics. Compact and concise in arrangement and logical in treatment, it is a perfect storehouse of information. The extensive table of contents and the seven distinct indices enable the inquirer to find the desired information, without trouble or loss of time; indeed in this respect it is an example of compilation worthy of the highest commendation. Although not intended to be a general treatise, it is a volume the value of which it is almost impossible to over-estimate. It covers the entire ground of the autonomous Regal and Imperial coinage, exhibiting "the leading and most characteristic coin types of each city and king," names and epithets of the deities, palaeographical peculiarities, metrological standards in use in the different eras, and other references, as interesting as important. The 400 illustrations, wisely inserted in the text, are admirable specimens of the Meisenbach process, and exhibit the delicacy and masterly workmanship of the originals in a manner scarcely to be excelled. Certainly, the press has rarely produced a work which can compare with this handbook in typographical merit, extent and value of information, clearness and completeness of arrangement and reasonableness of price.

COB MONEY.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Boston Transcript*, speaking of "Cob money," says:—Although the reason assigned for application of this term to the early Mexican money, including those pieces ranging in value from one-sixteenth of a dollar to the doubloon—that it may arise from the method of striking the coins with a hammer,—seems to be convincing, yet I am inclined to the belief that "cob," in this instance, implies inferiority in point of artistic finish, when employed by numismatists and collectors, in which connection we find it in use. Cob money conformed to the lawful standard in weight and fineness, but was struck with the hammer, without much regard to regularity of form or impression.

IN one of the early numbers of the *Journal* (Vol. iii: p. 32), there is an interesting article on this subject by the late Professor Anthon.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

WE see it stated that the United States Mint at Philadelphia has secured a counterfeit two-dollar-and-a-half gold piece of 1852, of which it had been in quest for years for the purpose of preserving it in its cabinet. Before it was discovered it passed current at the sub-treasury and at the bank, though it contains only 27 cents worth of gold. Its weight, however, is that of the real article "to a hair." The metallurgic knowledge which was displayed in getting up this piece, gives it value, and was worthy better employment.

ANOTHER VERY RARE COLONIAL JETON OF LOUIS XV.

BESIDE the specimen described in our January issue, Mr. Frossard has received from Paris another variety of the very rare Jeton of 1756 (not 1755), bee-hive reverse, struck in silver, and an undoubted original, of which the following is a correct description: *Mailed* bust laureate of Louis XV, r.; LUD. XV. REX CHRISTIANISS, *Æ* *M* in exergue. Rev. Same as the specimen described in the January number, but evidently from different dies. Border serrated, edge milled, condition very fine, size 18½.

THE SO-CALLED CONFEDERATE HALF DIME.

THE so-called Confederate Half Dime is really only a silver token, half dime size, issued by some enthusiastic Southerner during the early days of the rebellion. The following description made from a specimen which found its way to the hands of Mr. Ed. Frossard may be relied upon as correct: Confederate flag flying r.; A UNITED SOUTH 1861. Rev. Cotton plant surrounded by fifteen stars. Border very slightly raised, light milling on edge. Half dime size; silver.

TRANSACTIONS OF SOCIETIES.

BOSTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

OWING to the absence of members from the city in October and November last, the Society did not meet until December.

December 10th. The monthly meeting was held this day. In the absence of Mr. Appleton, Mr. Slade was elected Secretary *pro tem*. The report of the last meeting was accepted. Dr. Green was appointed a committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year. Mr. Davenport was appointed to audit the Treasurer's account. Mr. McLachlan presented a copy of his work on Canadian Numismatics to the Society, also an impression of the medal struck in white metal to commemorate the erection of a monument to "Thayendaneagea," — Captain Joseph Brant.

Mr. McLachlan, in his letter to the Secretary accompanying the medal, says: — "Brant's connection as an active participant on the British side of the Revolutionary war will, I think, make this medal interesting to Americans." Letters from Mr. W. S. Appleton were read, and the Society adjourned.

DENISON R. SLADE,

Secretary pro tem.

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, NEW YORK.

DURING the month of March the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society of New York held three meetings. On Wednesday the 2d, Mr. A. C. Zabriskie made an address on "Some Medallie Memorials of the National Guards." Tuesday the 15th, annual election, when the following officers were chosen: Daniel Parish, Jr., *President*; William Poillon, A. C. Zabriskie, James Oliver, and David L. Walter, *Vice Presidents*; Henry Russell Drown, *Secretary*; Benjamin Betts, *Treasurer*; Lyman Haynes Low, *Librarian*; Charles H. Wright, *Curator of Numismatics*; Gaston L. Feu-ardent, *Curator of Archaeology*; Charles A. Prior, *Historiographer*. This is the first time the Society has elected more than three vice presidents; the constitution provides one to every fifty resident members or part thereof. Thursday, March 24th, the Librarian read an address on "Tokens or Metallic Substitutes for Lawful Money."

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

At the January meeting Dr. Storer presented from Colonel John C. Seabury a military (Confederate) button worn by Sergeant John T. Ellis, of the Tenth South Carolina Volunteers; and exhibited the following coins and medal that had been mounted for the cabinet, composing Nos. 125 to 133 inclusive: — Phœnix "hard times" token of 1837, from Mr. Thomas Galvin; Norwich, Norfolk token, of 1792, from Master Walter Barney; Willey, Staffordshire, and Anglesea token, of same date, from Mr. H. H. Swinburne; Switzerland ten-rappen, of 1850, from Mr. C. Theodore Jewell; French franc, of 1809, Napoleon I., coined at Bayonne, from Mrs. Eliza Watson; a schilling courant of Mecklenburg Schwerin, of 1792, from Miss M. G. Ellery; New York Mendum (Rebellion) token, of 1862, from Mrs. Harriet P. Bates; Fall River E. P. Francis (Rebellion) token, of 1864, from Mrs. H. H. Gilpin, and a large medal of Rev. J. F. Oberlin, of Alsace, from "a friend," one of the clergymen of this city.

Dr. Storer announced donations to the coin collection from Judge Topham and Mr. H. B. Wood.

Colonel Gilpin announced that he had a large collection of old buttons, both military and civic, some of which he would give to the society. He believed that a great deal of historic interest connected itself with these old buttons. He has a complete set imported directly from England to Newport by the grandfather of Mr. Henry D. DeBlois and several of the earlier buttons worn by the Newport Artillery.

Dr. Storer recalled attention to descriptions he had given in his address at the dedication of the society's building, of the U. S. dollar pieces of 1794 and 1795, in which he had used the following language:—"That of October, 1794, gave to the goddess of liberty, with wholly unbound and dishevelled hair, a man's face, looking upward, with a startled or fierce expression, as though the conflict for freedom were still not over. The dollar of 1795, upon the contrary, represents a lovely and placid face, strikingly like that of one (a granddaughter of Commodore O. H. Perry), who by descent possesses a name glorious in Newport's history and by marriage one cosmopolitan to art. Her hair, loosely confined by fillet, flows upon the shoulders. Beauty, freedom, possession, power, renown, peace. These the dollar of that period presents us as the attributes of our country."

At the time indicated, Dr. Storer was unaware that any such comparison of the pieces had ever been made. Within the past day or two he had been both surprised and delighted, while reading the life of Henry William de Saussure, Director of the U. S. Mint in 1795, by James Ross Snowden, a subsequent Director, in his *Medallic Memorials of Washington in the Mint of the United States* (1861, page 177), to find this passage:—

"The head of Liberty on the dollar of 1795 was designed by Stuart, the celebrated portrait painter, at the request of the Director, as we learn from a relation of the family, Stuart facetiously remarking that 'Liberty on the other coins had run mad'—referring to the dishevelled hair on the previous coins—'we will bind it up, and thus render her a steady matron.'"

From the above, it would seem not unlikely that the design of Liberty upon the dollar of 1795 was drawn by Stuart here in Newport, directly from the grand, or great grand-mother of the lady indicated by Dr. Storer.

COIN SALES.

WOODWARD'S NINETY-THIRD SALE.

MR. WOODWARD held his Ninety-third sale in New York, on the first and second of February last. It was the numismatic collection of a lady in Western New York, and consisted mostly of American coins, with some Mexican issues, and a number of store cards, a pattern cent with silver centre of 1792, pattern farthing of Queen Anne, and testoon of Mary, Queen of Scots. Mr. Woodward has left Boston for a rest, and is taking a journey among the California collectors, and we believe into Mexico. He will doubtless unearth relics, rarities, etc., to make several sales of interest for the coming season, but by reason of his absence our usual priced catalogue has failed to reach us.

FROSSARD'S SALES.

THE BOBAN COLLECTION.

THIS collection of Antiquities, "curios," coins, manuscripts and books, was sold just before Christmas, by Messrs. Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., New York. The catalogue, by Mr. Sotheran and Mr. Frossard, was an interesting volume, aside from its technical value, containing as it did, many illustrations of the rare antiquities offered: it comprised 2,859 lots, covering nearly 200 pages. Probably there has never been such a collection of early Mexican and Peruvian antiques sold in this country; there were also beside the above, of special interest to American collectors, Mound Builders' pottery, antiquities from Guatemala, Yucatan, funereal vases from Zapotecas, Aztec weapons, etc. There were also early Greek, Roman and Egyptian objects, ceramics, gems, etc., medieval arms, relics of various kinds from the Lake dwellers of Switzerland, and others too numerous to mention. Then there were 2,500 volumes, among them numismatic works, books of archaeology, some of the earliest printed books from American presses, and quite a large number on the languages or vocabularies of Mexican, Central American and South American aboriginal races. There were also a number of works relating to Canada, the United States and the West Indies. This is a hint rather than an outline even, of a very remarkable collection. We have no room to quote freely the prices obtained, yet we cannot forbear mentioning a few, taken at random. A funereal vase of some Zapotecan warrior, of terra cotta, sold for \$37; a unique statue of the Zapotecan god of war, 72 centimeters in height, made of grey terra cotta, and unlike any other in European or American Museums, brought 175.00; a group of three deities, forming a sort of trinity, in red terra cotta, brought 35; several other Mexican idol statues brought from \$16 to \$50 each. There were sets of monster stirrups, dating from the time of Cortez, which ranged from \$38 to \$70 per pair. A large Greek diota, nearly perfect, 250; a human skull carved from a block of hyaline rock crystal, with smooth, polished surface, and natural size, interesting from the part this object bore in Mexican religious ceremonials, and described as a perfect specimen, brought \$950. There are many others that might be mentioned, but we must desist; for lack of space, not inclination, forbids further quotations.

FEBRUARY 9 was sold a collection of U. S. and Canadian coinage, fractional notes, Colonial and Continental currency, the most complete set offered in many years, gathered by Mr. E. B. Sterling of Trenton, N. J. Among the silver dollars were thirty-four from 1794 to 1803, embracing a large proportion of the *die* differences, to which so much attention has been lately given by collectors of this series. The catalogue, 25 pages, covered 551 numbers, and was prepared by Mr. Frossard. The sale took place at Leavitt's.

MR. FROSSARD'S Sixty-third sale was of a collection of Ancient and Modern coins, from the estate of a Baltimore gentleman, with which was the Numismatic Library of Mr. Richard H. Lawrence of New York; the latter was particularly rich in the later works of value on Greek and Roman coinage, to which Mr. Lawrence has given much attention. The catalogue, 28 pages, contained 545 numbers, and the sale took place Dec. 28th, at Leavitt & Co.'s, New York.

FEBRUARY 19, he held his Sixty-fifth sale, when he offered a large collection of foreign copper coins, medieval denars and bracteates, some sixty Medical medals, several of unusual rarity, War medals and decorations, with many award medals of Agricultural and other Societies. The catalogue, by Mr. Frossard, covered 28 pages and 562 lots.

MR. FROSSARD'S Sixty-eighth sale occurs April 8th, and will consist of a small collection of coins and medals, Fractional currency, together with an assortment of Postage and Revenue stamps, and some curiosities of interest to collectors, and will be followed early in May by the Third and concluding part of the Russian Collection. Geo. A. Leavitt & Co. are to be the auctioneers.

We are indebted to the attentive courtesy of Signor Cav. GIULIO SAMBON, for a catalogue of the Numismatic Collection of Signor ACHILLE CANTONI, which is to be disposed of at auction in Milan, on the 25th April. The collection is very extensive, comprising 5,427 pieces, not reckoning duplicates, and embraces coins and medals of Italy, medieval and modern, Rome, consular and imperial, etc. The Catalogue is enriched with three pages of well executed phototypes of specimen coins in the collection. Among the rarest coins we observe a zecchin of Julius II, 1503-15; a doubloon of three zecchins of Clement VII, 1523-4; a doppio ducat of Galeazzo Maria Sforza, 1466-76; and two magnificent examples, in the best style, of the exceedingly rare octodrachm of Syracuse.

EDITORIAL.

THE present number concludes another volume of the *Journal*. Looking back over the numbers for the year we think we have reason to be gratified with what has been done in endeavoring to cultivate a love for the science to which it is devoted, and in the interest shown by our contributors who have so kindly and efficiently supplemented our editorial labors.

WE propose to begin the next volume with an illustrated article on Communicants' Tokens; this will be prepared for the *Journal* by Mr. THOMAS WARNER, who has made these issues a special study, and whose extensive collection will enable him to make these papers, — which will very likely run through the volume, — of great value. He will be pleased to hear from collectors and all those interested, who have not already aided him, either by rubbings or descriptive accounts of pieces in their cabinets. His address is: Cohocton, Steuben Co., N.Y.

WE hope to continue, in succeeding numbers of the *Journal*, the publication in each, of a page or more of "numismatic notes" — by Mr. Lyman H. Low, of New York, who has kindly consented to furnish us "bits of gossip" and such current items of numismatic news as will be of interest to our subscribers. The first instalment begins with the present number.

CURRENCY.

IF a man will take care of his common sense, the dollars will take care of themselves.

MONEY is close, very close — but not close enough for some people to grasp it.

AN exchange says that small coins are coming into prominence again. We have searched the lining of our old clothes in vain.

ITS custom of circulating so briskly must heat and excite coin, for at the sub-treasury it is constantly charged for its sweating.

THE silver dollar is intrinsically worth about four cents more than it was, but it does not wear a hole in one's trousers pocket any faster.

A CATTARAUGUS County man has a silver dollar of the date of 1798. It shows the eagle to have been bald headed even at that early age.

